

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00154 072016Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, US

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG EC PERM REP REACTS TO TINDEMANS REPORT

1. THE FIRST REACTION TO THE TINDEMANS PAPER HAS COME TO US FROM THE LUXEMBOURG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EC AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF COREPER JEAN DONDELINGER (HIMSELF THE AUTHOR OF AN ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL) AT A US/LUXEMBOURG LUNCH ON JAN 7. DONDELINGER EXPRESSED HIS GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE REPORT; HE NOTED THAT WHILE TINDEMANS DID NOT ADOPT ALL OF THE SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THE DONDELINGER PAPER, A NUMBER OF THEM DID APPEAR. DONDELINGER WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT TINDEMANS HAD ESCHEWED A HIGH-FLOWN CONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND INSTEAD CONCENTRATED ON PRAGMATIC, AND FOR THE MOST PART PRACTICAL, STEPS. HE WAS SURE THIS WAS THE RIGHT APPROACH.

2. DONDELINGER WAS DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, IN THE SECTION DEALING WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE US (CHAPTER II-C-2). HE THOUGHT IT DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RECENT PROGRESS ACHIEVED ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US UNDER THE GYMnich FORMULA. HE ADDED THAT THE TINDEMANS PROPOSAL (TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE US WITH THE OBJECT OF REACHING A COMMON

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 00154 072016Z

UNDERSTANDING) SEEMED TO BE OUT OF LINE WITH THE GENERAL

APPROACH IN THE REPORT OF PROCEEDING PRAGMATICALLY AND ACHIEVING "QUALITATIVE CHANGES" IN EXISTING STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES RATHER THAN TAKING A BROAD CONCEPTUAL APPROACH. THE PROPOSAL ON US/EC RELATIONS RISKED RE-RAISING ALL THE DIFFICULTIES OF TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO.

3. DONDELINGER SAW THE TINDEMANS REPORT AS THE CENTERPIECE FO THE MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL. (HE MENTIONED THAT LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER THORN HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI JAN 7 AND THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO LIMIT THE AGENDA OF THE MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL SO SUFFICIENT TIME WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.) HE ANTICIPATES A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION BUT NO FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT IN COREPER OF ELSEWHERE BETWEEN NOW AND THE MARCH MEETING. DONDELINGER SPECULATED THAT THE MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL WOULD CHARGE THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSION, WITH DRAWING UP SPECIFIC ACTION PROPOSALS, INCLUDING ANY NECESSARY TREATY AMENDMENTS, FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JULY MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. GREENWALD

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